The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/54/3, A/54/69-E/1999/8 and Add. 1, A/54/289 and 340, A/C.3/54/2, A/C.3/54/L.3, L.4, L.5 and L.6)

Agenda item 108: International drug control (*continued*) (A/54/3 and 186, A/54/293-E/1999/119, A/54/314-S/1999/942 and A/C.3/54/L.7)

1. **Mr. Tarabrin** (Russian Federation) said that maximum use must be made of the potential of the United Nations to define a single anti-crime strategy for the world community and welcomed the Organization's practical steps to combat crime and focus on priority areas for anti-crime cooperation. His delegation commended, in particular, the work carried out at the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and supported the draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the General Assembly. The Russian Federation also highly commended the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and was prepared to support fully its activities so that the drafting of the convention and the three additional international legal instruments could be completed in the year 2000.

2. International cooperation to combat crime must be supported by adequate measures at the regional level. That was a main priority of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), whose experience in that field would be useful for other countries. The G-8 conference of ministers on combating transnational organized crime would be convened in Moscow in October 1999 and would continue the work begun in Washington in December 1997. The conference's objectives included stepping up efforts by law enforcement agencies to counteract transnational crime, particularly in the field of financial crime, and combating crime in the area of advanced technology.

3. The Russian Federation, which was taking strong anti-crime measures at the national and international levels, had recently signed the 1990 European Convention on Laundering Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime and had ratified European conventions on extradition and reciprocal legal assistance in criminal matters. His Government also sought to establish a reliable system of bilateral legal relations with other countries in that field. Efforts to combat corruption and money laundering were a major component of the Russian Federation's anti-crime activities. Corruption and money laundering were not the problem of the Russian Federation alone, and his country had repeatedly demonstrated its readiness to combat them at both the national and international level.

4. The Russian Federation, which was a party to all the United Nations anti-drug conventions, called upon all States that had not done so to accede to the basic international legal instruments in that field to ensure their universality and stressed the need for the full implementation of the documents adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. His country supported General Assembly resolution 53/115 on international cooperation against the world drug problem, which contained an action plan for implementing the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. He highly commended the work of the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) in providing assistance to the Russian Government and hoped that major practical agreements could be reached giving further impetus to cooperation between his country and the United Nations in combating crime.

5. The Russian Federation was continuing to step up its activities against drug abuse and illegal trafficking. A law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances had recently entered into force, law enforcement agencies dealing with drug-related crimes were being strengthened, and centres were being set up for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. His country had established a network of bilateral intergovernmental and inter-agency agreements on cooperation in combating illegal drug trafficking. Cooperation in that field was also being expanded within the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Russian Federation was open to cooperation with all States in the fight against international crime and drug trafficking.

6. **Mr. Jayanama** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the upsurge in use of amphetamine-type stimulants was of particular concern to South-East Asia since it constituted a major threat to health and social development in the region. An all-out effort to tackle all aspects of the drug problem must be made; and measures to curb demand and supply must be taken simultaneously in a balanced manner and with strong follow-up action. He commended the twentieth special session of the General Assembly for adopting the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) in cooperating with countries to foster demand reduction.

7. In addressing the demand and supply aspects of the drug problem, ASEAN had adopted both preventive and

curative measures. Preventive measures included strengthening family institutions, raising public awareness of drug abuse, and prevention through education and public information campaigns. In the past two years, however, the Asian financial crisis had placed extreme pressures on families and society in the region, making it easier for drug abuse to spread. Programmes had to be designed to meet the specific needs of selected target groups, particularly children and youth. ASEAN continued to take serious and sustained measures to eradicate the problem of the supply and trans-shipment of drugs in South-East Asia. Its crop-substitution strategy had been so successful that UNDCP was considering using the South-East Asian experience as a model for similar efforts elsewhere.

8. The Association had also been intensifying its efforts to implement curative measures, which included treatment of drug abusers, suppression of criminal activities related to illegal drugs, strengthening cooperation among law enforcement agencies and exchanging information and experience. The recent establishment in Thailand of the International Law Enforcement Agency, a training institute for law enforcement officers from ASEAN countries, was a step in the right direction. Increased importance had been attached to dealing with practices that helped fuel the drug industry such as money laundering. The Association attached great importance to combating money laundering through effective national measures and regional cooperation efforts. The ASEAN countries were committed to adopting, by 2003, national money-laundering legislation and programmes and reaffirmed its support for the major decisions adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

9. The eradication of illicit drug trafficking required joint commitment and action at the regional and international levels. The ASEAN countries had held many regional meetings which had paved the way for launching new initiatives and reaffirming old commitments. As part of that effort, Thailand would host in 2000 an Asia-Pacific ministerial seminar on transnational organized crime focusing on the issues of drug trafficking and money laundering. The ASEAN countries commended the active role played by UNDCP in strengthening cooperation among the countries of the region by providing the necessary funds, resources and expertise. With the Programme's support, Thailand had held bilateral meetings on cooperation with Myanmar and Cambodia. UNDCP was also to be commended for developing a programme framework for cooperation in drug control in South-East Asia. Lastly, the Association reiterated its appeal to the international community to support ASEAN in its anti-drug war and was ready to contribute to the global effort to meet that challenge.

10. **Mr. Rosa** (Portugal) said that his delegation fully supported the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union on the items under consideration. The twentieth session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem had been a fundamental step in mobilizing the efforts of the international community in that field. The Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction clearly affirmed the need to adopt overall national and international strategies to reduce both the demand and supply of drugs and set forth the principle of "shared responsibility", committing all countries to tackle the drug problem wherever it existed.

11. Portugal had some 20 years of experience in the fight against drugs and drug addiction and pursued an integrated national strategy in that field, whose guiding principles were based on a humanist and pragmatic approach aimed at reducing demand as well as supply. In order to reduce demand, Portugal was firmly committed to promoting the prevention of drug addiction and the treatment and social reintegration of addicts. Particular attention was given to the development of harm reduction programmes to minimize the damage caused by drug addiction to both the individual and society. The national strategy was designed to reinforce international cooperation in the fight against drugs, decriminalize drug use, focus on primary prevention by giving priority to action plans aimed at young people, ensure that all addicts had access to treatment and occupational reintegration mechanisms, expand harm reduction programmes and strengthen the fight against drug trafficking and money laundering by improving linkages with the various authorities involved. Portugal was committed to international cooperation, which was essential to anti-drug efforts and played an active role in that regard as a member of the European Union, the community of Ibero-American countries and the community of Portuguese-speaking countries.

12. **Mr. Regmi** (Nepal) remarked that the complex phenomenon of drug production, abuse and trafficking had acquired the status of transnational organized crime, and the determined efforts of the international community were required to combat it. His delegation therefore welcomed the United Nations involvement in that fight and the Secretary-General's report in document A/54/186. It appreciated the legal and technical assistance provided by UNDCP subsequent to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and hoped it would be intensified.

13. Nepal was fully committed to combating drug abuse and trafficking. Besides being a party to the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, it had taken action consistent with other relevant United Nations conventions, including formulating a national drug control policy and drug demand reduction strategy and adopting the Narcotic Drug Control Act. In addition, improvements had been made in its judicial and legal systems, and treatment and rehabilitation facilities and efforts to publicize the dangers of drug abuse had been increased.

14. As a member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Nepal was a party to that body's Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and worked with other members to enhance drug control activities. Believing non-governmental organizations and civil society had a crucial role to play in combating drug abuse and trafficking, it particularly encouraged their activities in the fields of treatment and rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse, counselling of victims' families and dissemination of information.

15. As the Decade against Drug Abuse drew to a close, Nepal urged all States Members of the United Nations to promote cooperation in law enforcement, interdiction, establishment of intelligence information services and the development of a standard mechanism for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information concerning drug abuse and trafficking.

16. **Mr. Bhatti** (Pakistan) observed that, while there had been some success in achieving the aims of the Decade against Drug Abuse, advances in technology, transport and freedom of movement had been such that the illegal drug trade still accounted for some 8 per cent of world trade and the associated problem of money laundering for 2-5 per cent of global GDP. At the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the international community had manifested a collective resolve to tackle the world drug problem in a comprehensive and balanced manner, with equal emphasis on demand reduction and drug supply.

17. Demand reduction was indispensable and his delegation therefore looked forward to the adoption at the General Assembly's current session of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. Alternative development could also do much to ease the drug problems: it reduced farmers' economic dependence on illicit crops and helped to integrate areas where such crops had been grown into national economies.

18. As a strong supporter of coordinated international efforts to combat drugs, Pakistan was a party to all three relevant United Nations conventions and had ratified the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. It was also a party to the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and had contributed to the establishment of the Economic Cooperation Organization's Committee on Narcotics Abuse Control. In addition, his country had agreements with all neighbouring countries on the exchange of drug-related intelligence and cooperated closely with many other countries on combating the drug problem.

19. Pakistan was a major victim of the drug culture: in some 20 years, it had gone from being virtually drug-free to being a country with some 1.2 million heroin addicts. Through faithful implementation of the Global Programme of Action and other vigorous efforts, it had, however, cut opium production by over 95 per cent from the 800 tons of the mid-1980s and was reducing the transit of drugs through its territory. In February it had, thanks to valuable technical and financial aid from UNDCP, launched a national Master Plan for Drug Abuse Control that had been prepared with the full involvement of provincial governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

20. Pakistan's experience showed that, because of domestic violence and the breakdown of families, drug abuse had a disproportionately negative effect on women. A special effort had therefore been made to integrate gender issues in the Master Plan. Demand reduction was a major focus of the Plan and would be achieved through, for example, information campaigns, training of health workers to deliver home care and establishment of treatment and rehabilitation centres in regional hospitals. The Plan also aimed, through measures including extensive alternative development projects, at the total eradication of opium-poppy growing in Pakistan by the year 2000. All the heroin laboratories which had existed in Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan had already been destroyed. It was hoped that Pakistan would be drug-free by 2003.

21. Measures to eliminate the flow of illicit drugs through Pakistan were being intensified. Intelligence-gathering was being improved and procedures for investigating and prosecuting drug trafficking were being simplified. The recent Anti-Narcotics Act provided for the confiscation of drug-generated assets and for severe penalties, including capital punishment, for traffickers.

22. **Ms. Ahmed** (Sudan) said that international drug control was a shared responsibility requiring a complementary and balanced approach which fully respected

the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and all human rights. Her country was a party to all the relevant international conventions, and was convinced that drugs posed a great danger to youth and society. The laundering of money accruing from illegal drug trafficking, and the use of such money in order to finance illegal activities, such as providing financial support for armed rebel movements that threatened legitimate Governments, posed a threat to international peace and security and made it essential for the international community to cooperate with the relevant international bodies.

23. The Sudan itself did not have a serious drug problem, but its geographical location meant that drugs might be smuggled across its territory. It therefore continued to take every measure in order to control the problem and, to that end, had enacted legislation that included the death penalty for drug trafficking. Her country considered it the sovereign right of every State to enact such laws as it considered appropriate. The Sudan respected the choices made by other States and expected similar respect in return. Her delegation had wished to make that clear, in view of the draft resolution on that subject introduced by the European Union, and to point out that the death penalty was a matter on which there was as yet no international consensus.

24. In his report (A/54/340) on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Secretary-General had stated that the outstanding balance in assessed financial contributions of Member States was immense. Her delegation stressed the need to provide the Institute with the financial and human resources necessary to implement its work programme, and urged that additional resources should be allocated to it for the biennium 2000-2001.

25. **Mr. Diao Mingsheng** (People's Republic of China) said that, while the end of the millennium was proving a period of rapid growth, crime, especially transnational organized crime, continued generally to endanger political stability and economic development. Reflecting the international community's concern at that, the United Nations had been increasing its attention to crime prevention and criminal justice, a development which his delegation both appreciated and supported.

26. The Chinese Government had actively implemented the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime and participated in related United Nations activities. The Chinese Criminal Code widely reflected international experience in preventing and controlling transnational organized crime, and Chinese law enforcement agencies, with their special squads for dealing with such crime, had achieved notable successes in joint efforts with their counterparts from other countries. The Chinese Government was ready further to expand its cooperation with other countries and international organizations in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice.

27. In that regard, serious attention should be paid to preparation for, and participation in the Tenth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Congress should be fully utilized for an exchange of views and experience and the formulation of synergetic strategies and common guidelines for crime prevention and criminal justice. More attention should be paid to the drafting of an international convention against transnational organized crime and the related protocols. To make them acceptable to more countries, those instruments should fully incorporate the general models in the existing international conventions against transnational crime and the basic principles governing legal assistance in criminal justice. Developed countries in particular should be more flexible and take fully into account developing countries' concerns over issues such as the principle of sovereignty and financial and technical assistance.

28. The United Nations central role in, and its resources for coordinating the fight against transnational organized crime should be further strengthened. More United Nations resources for related technical assistance should be channelled to the neediest developing countries. His delegation believed that every country was entitled to take all necessary measures, in the light of its domestic law and circumstances, to punish the perpetrators of serious crimes. China respected the choice made by some countries to abolish the death penalty and hoped for corresponding respect of its own choice of ways of protecting its people and maintaining stable economic and social development. Differences on the issue of the death penalty were only natural and should not impede international cooperation in the fight against crime.

29. **Mr. Krokhmal** (Ukraine), speaking on behalf of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, said that organized crime and drug trafficking were among the most dangerous challenges in the modern world: they did not recognize national borders and were a threat to international security. The United Nations had an important role to play in coordinating States' efforts to combat those problems and in developing relevant international law, and the capacities of its crime prevention and international drug control bodies must be strengthened.

30. In that respect, Ukraine and Moldova welcomed the forthcoming Tenth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders and hoped that it would consider criminal justice, prevention of organized crime, the rule of law and community involvement in crime prevention as a set of issues on which international cooperation was critical for the entire world. While national action remained of paramount importance, it could be greatly enhanced by bilateral, regional and global cooperation with full United Nations involvement. The delegations of Ukraine and Moldova therefore supported the work being done within the United Nations to draft a convention against transnational organized crime, as well as the issuance of the Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions and the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials and the elaboration of model treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters.

31. Combating crime and corruption was among Ukraine's priorities. The Government was implementing a programme of action on crime prevention for the period 1996-2000 and had concluded over 60 judicial assistance agreements with other countries. It was also drafting a law on combating money laundering. Ukraine's and Moldova's concern with such efforts reflected crime's negative impact on their economies, a burden aggravated by the continuing economic and social reform in those emerging democracies.

32. Ukraine strongly supported the strategy pursued by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs for combating drug abuse, as well as the outcomes of the Commission's forty-second session and of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Policy-making and practical activities within the framework of UNDCP and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) had generated important decisions showing how to achieve success in combating the drug problem.

33. Ukraine's active efforts to solve that problem included implementation of a national programme for 1996-2000 to counter drug abuse and the illicit circulation of drugs, as well as the promotion of bilateral and regional cooperation through, for example, the Centre for the Exchange of Drug Information of the Countries of the Black Sea Basin. His country had drawn on international experience and UNDCP recommendations in developing an extensive body of law to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and the procedure for Ukrainian accession to the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 was near completion. Ukraine and Moldova were interested in further cooperation with UNDCP and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Both countries believed in the international community's ability, under United Nations leadership, to halt the escalation of crime and drug abuse.

34. **Mr. Beers** (United States of America) said that the United Nations offered a powerful defence against transnational crime: international cooperation, which was capable of identifying and dismantling criminal syndicates, prosecuting and imprisoning criminal leaders, freezing and seizing criminal assets, and developing ways to counter crime networks. The tools, lessons, and enhanced communication that had resulted from cooperation could, in addition, be wielded against both drugs and crime. On the basis of those lessons, the international community had begun to map out more effective strategies for the new millennium. Among them was the draft convention against transnational organized crime, and its accompanying protocol. That set of instruments must be finalized by 2000, so that implementation could effectively begin.

35. Commitments had been made at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, and clear targets and objectives set out for their fulfilment. The Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDC) needed support; all countries should increase their contributions to both of those organizations. In 1999, the Government of the United States had contributed 1 million US dollars to the Centre for International Crime Prevention and 25 million US dollars to UNDCP, in both cases a dramatic increase over previous years. Believing that domestic programmes must be the cornerstone of international cooperation, his Government had also devoted 18 billion to its 1999 anti-drug budget for the implementation of the United States National Drug Control Strategy, which aimed to eliminate drug use at all levels of society, cut drug use by half during the coming decade, and target international supply sources. Nearly one third of the budget of the current year had been allocated for demand reduction, with emphasis on educating youth, parents and mentors; an anti-drug youth media campaign had been launched to counter the glamorization of drug use. In addition, the United States funded institutions in drug-source countries that were tackling drug organizations, drug money, and drug-producing crops.

36. Many nations had achieved measurable results towards eliminating or reducing illicit drug crops. In South Asia, however, although Pakistan had made gains in reducing poppy cultivation, not all neighbouring countries had cooperated. The international community must take quick action to counter the increase in poppy production in Afghanistan, from which the Taliban profited. For their part, East Asian Governments should bolster enforcement actions against opium production, which had begun to decline partly

due to bad weather. All three Andean coca-producing countries had taken dramatic actions to reduce cultivation. Peru had cut cultivation by half, and Bolivia expected to eliminate it in the coming two years. In Colombia, drug criminals had strengthened alliances with guerilla networks and were thwarting that Government's efforts, a problem that all countries should help to solve.

37. The United States looked forward to greater cooperation with African countries, where drug abuse and trafficking were escalating. It planned, *inter alia*, to continue to hold annual forums with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), confer with the Southern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization and SADC on the establishment of an international law enforcement academy in Africa, collaborate with South Africa on justice and law enforcement issues, and help Nigeria in its fight against international crime.

38. The commitments made at the twentieth special session had begun to result in a greater number of prosecutions throughout the world. Efforts to deny raw materials to drug organizations were vital; Operation Purple, which aimed to track all potassium permanganate transactions, had led to a significant number of seized and stopped shipments. Targeting the infrastructures of drug traffickers was useless so long as they retained their profits and safe havens. All countries should adopt and implement legislation to freeze and seize assets and to remove such barriers as bank secrecy. Since traffickers were moving to off-shore havens, activist diplomacy would be needed to create new international standards and to pressure jurisdictions that were licensing their financial sectors to criminals, terrorists and looters.

39. To ensure progress, assessments were necessary. A peer-evaluation mechanism had recently been launched in the Western Hemisphere and the first evaluation would be conducted in 2000. The new reporting assessment process — by which countries would report twice yearly to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs — was an obligation that must be strictly complied with. Tools to combat the drug trade must be strengthened to confront international crime syndicates. In 1998, President Clinton had signed the first international crime strategy in history; a document which sought to promote the rule of law, with emphasis on denying safe havens to international criminals. The United States Government also provided assistance for the development and harmonization of credible justice systems and offered training to police, prosecutors, judges and investigators throughout the world.

40. **Ms. Martinez** (Ecuador) said that her delegation shared the views expressed by Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group. The Ecuadorian President had introduced a national drug prevention plan in June 1999, which was designed to invigorate the existing legal framework, maximize technical and financial assistance at national and international levels, and address both drug abuse and drug trafficking, with emphasis on prevention and rehabilitation. Although Ecuador had successfully switched over to alternative crops, it wished to encourage the production of other legal export crops, a process which would be furthered by open international trade policies.

41. At the meeting of the Organization of American States in June 1999, Ecuador had supported an initiative put forward by Canada which envisaged the individual as a point of reference for the development of policies and dealt with the question of drugs from a human-security perspective. In keeping with other initiatives that sought to strengthen democracy and the quality of life, that viewpoint placed the responsibility for combating drugs on all social development sectors, rather than on anti-drug authorities alone.

42. Solving the problem of drug abuse depended largely on reducing demand. It was worth noting that Ecuadorian youths who had taken part in the World Youth Forum held in Portugal in 1999 had undertaken to fight for a drug-free society. With their support, the Ecuadorian Government was prepared to fulfill its commitment to raising the awareness of the population regarding the danger of drugs.

43. **Mr. Kouliev** (Azerbaijan) said that his Government was taking measures to fight drug abuse and drug trafficking, in accordance with the commitments it had made at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. In January 1999, Azerbaijan had acceded to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. It had become a party to all three conventions on international drug control and had integrated them into its national legal system. In addition, the Azerbaijan State Commission on Drug Control was continuing to implement the national drug control plan on the basis of recommendations made by UNDCP and other international organizations.

44. In 1999, 2,500 drug-related crimes had been registered, twice as many as in 1993; the number of such crimes committed by groups had increased by about seven times, and the number of persons involved had also grown. Nevertheless, Government efforts had resulted in a reduction in both the number of crimes committed and the quantity of drugs seized in 1998, as compared to the previous two years. Azerbaijan currently had 53 drug-treatment clinics and centres throughout the country, and both governmental and

non-governmental entities were continuing their efforts to eradicate drug use, especially among young people.

45. Located at the junction of Europe and Asia, Azerbaijan was an attractive route for massive drug transfers, a situation aggravated by the Armenian occupation. There were a number of areas in the Caucasus region that were beyond the rule of law — and well beyond the reach of national and international monitoring mechanisms, including a 132-kilometre stretch of border between Azerbaijan and Iran, which offered an open field for drug shipments and drug cultivation. Azerbaijan nevertheless called on the countries of the world to respect the terms of the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, which emphasized the negative consequences of violating territorial integrity to prevent illicit drug trafficking.

46. Cooperation had been established between the law enforcement agencies of Azerbaijan and Georgia; the UNDCP strategy for the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization was also worthy of note. A large number of foreign citizens involved in the drug trade had been apprehended in Azerbaijan in recent years. A growing number of organized criminal groups worked with similar groups in Central Asian and other newly independent States and in Middle Eastern States and employed new and sophisticated drug-trafficking techniques. To cope with that threat, Azerbaijani law-enforcement agencies would need special equipment and staff-training programmes.

47. His country supported a holistic approach to the drug problem and stressed the need to continue the programme jointly sponsored by the Government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), which aimed to reduce illicit drug trafficking in Azerbaijan by strengthening law-enforcement activities and monitoring drug abuse. That programme had a budget of $863,000, an insufficient sum to cover the costs. For the successful implementation of its national plan, Azerbaijan would need further assistance from UNDCP as well as from other international bodies and donor countries. In view of the conflict in the region, both regional and national programmes must be emphasized. A coordinated approach to international cooperation was essential.

48. **Mr. Matuszewski** (Poland) said that his Government aligned itself with the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union with regard to both of the items under consideration. In view of the dangerous escalation of international organized crime, exacerbated by globalization, the international community must mobilize fresh resources and reconsider its strategies. The substantial progress made on the elaboration of a draft convention against transnational organized crime was an encouraging development and augured well for its future universality. Poland agreed with the Secretary-General that that instrument should be accorded the highest priority, and welcomed the elaboration of the protocols to assist in its implementation. His Government urged the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of that convention to finalize its work, particularly with regard to the traffic in persons, especially women, children and migrants, and the illegal manufacture and trade of firearms.

49. Although every effort should be made to finalize that convention in 2000, for it to become an effective tool it must contain adequate provisions regarding cooperation among States. The definition of organized crime should specify its elements rather than employ examples of it, since new crimes might not be included among the examples. His Government believed that the matters of extradition, law enforcement, mutual legal assistance and the transfer of criminal proceedings could be successfully resolved in 2000, in time to meet the proposed deadline. Opening the convention for signature in the year of the millennium would demonstrate the determination of the international community to stop the spread of organized crime.

50. Poland had initiated the work of drafting the convention against transnational organized crime and had also organized the inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts, which had provided new impetus to the elaboration of the convention. The Government was now eager to host a high-level conference in Warsaw for the signing of the convention and its protocols, an appropriate culmination of several years of intense efforts.

51. The fact that the drug situation in Poland had remained stable in recent years should not be cause for complacency. Actions undertaken by the Polish Government had had some encouraging, if limited, results. Poland had been implementing a crop substitution programme which replaced opium poppies with a type containing no morphine known as "Przemko". The domestic supply of poppy-straw extract had diminished, a significant development in view of the sizable group of HIV-positive drug abusers that had been intravenously injecting that drug. That programme had been funded by domestic sources.

52. For a number of years, the Polish police and customs authorities had been working with their counterparts in other European countries to stem the production of amphetamines

destined mostly for Germany and Scandinavia. In 1998, several clandestine amphetamine laboratories had been discovered and many kilograms of amphetamines seized. Unfortunately, amphetamines were becoming available on the domestic market, and addicts were using them instead of poppy-straw extracts. There were also signs that heroin and cocaine were circulating in Poland, a matter of serious concern. Not only must the flow of drugs to Poland be stemmed, but Polish territory must not be used as a supply route from Asia to Western Europe. Cocaine shipments, mainly from South America, had also been intercepted in Polish airports and seaports. Polish authorities were cooperating with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) the World Customs Organization and their counterparts in neighbouring countries.

53. Serious consideration must be given to the financing scheme of UNDCP. Voluntary contributions from Member States could not be expected to cover the costs of the new tasks that lay ahead, in particular the establishment of the Centre for International Crime Prevention at Vienna. Funds would have to be allocated from the regular budget. That was indeed a case in which the precarious financial situation had had a detrimental effect on the implementation of programmes. Poland wished to announce that, having contributed $10,000 to the UNDCP fund, it was now a UNDCP donor country.

54. His Government, endorsing the views set out in the recent report of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), had adopted and was implementing relevant new legislation. It commended INCB for supervising the manufacture and trade of legal narcotic and psychotropic substances, a useful tool in combating drug abuse. Close cooperation between national law-enforcement agencies and judicial institutions was undoubtedly essential; regional programmes in Central Europe also greatly assisted national institutions in combating drug trafficking. Finally, new UNDCP offices should use the capacities of host countries insofar as possible and cooperate with the host countries in any activities that they undertook.

55. **Mr. Al-Sudairy** (Saudi Arabia) said that his delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/186) and the clarifications provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. His Government was highly appreciative of the work done by the Programme. Saudi Arabia shared the concern of the international community over the ever-increasing and extremely complex problem of drug trafficking. It was essential that every State should make an effort to combat the veritable plague constituted by such illegal trafficking. Practical measures were necessary in order to strengthen implementation of the relevant international conventions.

56. His Government also shared the international community's concern over the issue of money laundering and the fact that it was made possible by poor financial supervision in certain countries. Increased control must be exerted over the movement of large sums of money when it was not clear where such sums originated. Intensified international criminal justice cooperation was necessary in order to face the threats posed to State security and stability by a number of problems, including drug trafficking and organized crime. Increased information sharing was also necessary to uncover such activities. The whole international community had equal responsibility for drug control, and the strengthening of regional cooperation would be of the greatest benefit in that regard. His Government was completely opposed to the legalization of certain, or indeed, any drugs.

57. **Mr. García González** (El Salvador) speaking on behalf of the Central American Group of countries — Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama — said that the Group was committed to furthering the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem because it recognized the linkage between production, trafficking and consumption as the main obstacle to eliminating the drug problem, while the principle of shared responsibility and a unified international approach were the main weapons against it.

58. The unified international approach was the determining factor for making faster progress at local, national, regional and hemispheric levels because it was helping establish a common institutional framework for focusing efforts and enhancing the distribution and utilization of the human and financial resources involved. Thus, the countries of the Group had signed a Central American convention against drug-related money laundering and a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters to complement their own national and other international efforts. Also, the Central American Security Commission was making noteworthy efforts to follow up the commitments involved in the regional integration process on combating the drug problem and related offences.

59. The Group supported the work of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP): the Programme promoted concerted international action against drug abuse and was supporting training for the personnel responsible for combating the drug problem in the countries of the Group. The forthcoming adoption of the Action Plan

for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction would open up a new area for discussion and cooperation by Member States, the United Nations specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations and would enable them to exchange points of view on the best ways to combat the drug problem and follow up the implementation of the Declaration itself.

60. International efforts, however, needed greater public support so that the public could join in the fight against drugs in all social institutions where values were formed, such as churches, schools and trade unions, and also within the relevant regional integration bodies so that the principle of shared responsibility could be brought to the most local, grass-roots level. The countries of the Group were committed to redoubling their efforts to combat the drug problem through their support for initiatives at all levels towards that end. The drug problem was on a much smaller scale in the countries of the Group than in other regions, but would nevertheless remain a high priority for their Governments.

61. **Mr. Aumentado** (Philippines) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement by the representative of Thailand speaking on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). His delegation looked forward to the early adoption of the draft convention and additional protocols against transnational crime, and would continue to work towards that end in the Ad Hoc Committee. However, to achieve the purposes of international instruments to combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings and firearms, the developing countries would need technical cooperation and advisory services.

62. The global programmes of the Centre for International Crime Prevention were crucial, and its proposed global studies on transnational crime would ensure that all countries would start on an equal footing and with a clear understanding of transnational crime as manifested in different countries and regions. Also, the planned corruption monitoring protocol would be useful in determining not only the incidence of corruption but also the effectiveness of countermeasures and would also make it possible to conduct a comparative analysis of those countermeasures.

63. He commended the Centre and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute on the global programme against trafficking in human beings and expressed the hope that more countries would participate in it: the sheer magnitude of the phenomenon in terms of transnational crime and human rights abuses demanded immediate, concerted action. The Government of the Philippines was giving its full support to the pilot project which was being conducted in its territory through inter-agency cooperation in combating trafficking in human beings.

64. One of the challenges facing the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would be to address crime prevention from a multi-sectoral, interdisciplinary perspective. In that task, it would be helped by the clear theoretical framework set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/289). The Philippine crime prevention strategy was to strengthen crime control in a concerted effort by all parts of the justice and enforcement system. It was headed by the National Police Commission, which was responsible for submitting an annual national crime prevention plan within the context of a five-year master plan for peace and order. The Commission was also involved in the various international conferences and forums on crime prevention and would organize the hosting by the Philippine Government of the fifth world conference of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation (ACPF) in 2000.

65. The United Nations and interregional networking played a valuable part in improving the standards and norms underlying effective crime prevention and criminal justice. The National Police Commission had been particularly helped also by ACPF and the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI). The Philippines particularly welcomed the inclusion of the workshops on community involvement in crime prevention and women in the criminal justice system in the programme of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

66. Violence against women figured prominently in the Philippine crime prevention programme, and during the Ninth Congress his delegation had joined in sponsoring a resolution on the elimination of violence against women. In September 1995 the Government of the Philippines had adopted a 30-year plan for women, which formed the Philippine framework for implementing the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women. A law against sexual harassment had been passed in 1995, followed two years later by a law against rape whereby rape became no longer a crime against chastity but a public crime. That law also penalized rape within marriage. Philippine law enforcement agencies were strengthening efforts to protect women and children: special women's and children's "desks" had been set up in police stations nationwide and were staffed mainly by policewomen but also by policemen. Gender sensitivity training was given,

as was a short course on investigating cases involving women and children.

67. Filipino migrant women and children were particularly vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination. The Government was therefore taking severe measures against illegal recruitment in the Philippines. Illicit trafficking in human beings was becoming increasingly organized. The Government was also concerned by mail-order-bride schemes and the illegal adoption of Filipino children by foreigners and had enacted legislation against all those practices. Its various Departments and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration actively combated illegal recruitment. The Philippines had also initiated bilateral and regional cooperation mechanisms to protect its migrant workers.

68. He advocated the conclusion of bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral agreements to combat trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, and also for forced marriages and forced labour. In that connection, all countries, and particularly receiving countries, should become parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.

69. **Mr. Aboul Gheit** (Egypt) said that his delegation affirmed its support for the endeavours of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. The international community recognized the ever-growing threat posed by organized crime, and the importance of increased international cooperation in order to combat that threat. Criminal justice was an important component in preventing crime. In view of the draft resolution introduced by the European Union, which called for the abolition of the death penalty, he wished to affirm that every State had the sovereign right to adopt a legal system that accorded with and upheld the values of its society and the security and safety of its citizens. His delegation regretted the reintroduction of that issue at a time when the lack of consensus on the matter was well known. He was sure that the European Union was as concerned as his own country was that consensus in the international community should be maintained. The draft resolution raised many questions as to the readiness of the European Union to understand and accept value systems which differed from its own, and he hoped that the matter would be reconsidered.

70. **Miss Durrant** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that drug trafficking was a global phenomenon that could be tackled successfully only through international cooperation. In that connection, the outcome of the twentieth special session of the Assembly — and particularly the Political Declaration and the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction — formed the basis for a comprehensive multilateral framework to address the international drug problem.

71. The CARICOM countries found themselves between the centres of drug supply and the centres of drug demand, and therefore welcomed the balanced approach of mutually reinforcing demand and supply reduction advocated by the Secretary-General in his report (A/54/186). UNDCP had helped develop a comprehensive strategy and set of programmes for the CARICOM countries to reduce both drug supply and drug demand there. The Programme's assistance would continue to be needed if the goals set out in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles were to be met in the Caribbean.

72. UNDCP needed human and financial resources to continue its work, and its mandates and responsibilities had expanded in the follow-up to the twentieth special session. The CARICOM countries urged the international community to regard UNDCP as central to drug control worldwide and to ensure that it was given the necessary resources. According to the Executive Director of UNDCP, only 10 per cent of countries knew the true scale of their drug problem and therefore could not design the most effective countermeasures. UNDCP must therefore be able to share its epidemiological expertise with Governments and gather more accurate data on drug abuse. In that connection, the joint database established by UNDCP, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) should prove helpful to law enforcement officers worldwide.

73. The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction provided a comprehensive approach to demand reduction, reflected the commitments made at the twentieth special session and fostered linkages with other areas such as health, education, housing, law enforcement and crime prevention. The CARICOM countries supported that approach, believing that drug trafficking could not be tackled in isolation.

74. Another set of linkages involved drugs, drug-associated crime, the traffic in small arms and ammunition, money laundering and corruption, all of which remained serious challenges to the fragile societies of the Caribbean. The CARICOM countries urged countries involved in the production and export of small arms to monitor such exports carefully to reduce the incidence of gun smuggling. CARICOM was dismayed to be facing sophisticated

computer and arms crimes and believed that a multilateral approach to combating transnational organized crime was needed.

75. Significant numbers of programmes and projects had been generated under the 1996 Barbados Plan of Action in the areas of prevention, treatment, demand reduction, maritime cooperation and law enforcement, with particular emphasis on money laundering and other drug-related criminal activities. Under the Plan, assistance was also provided to States in implementing drug control treaties. She thanked UNDCP, European Union donor countries and the European Commission for their technical and financial support for those programmes.

76. Drug-related crimes raised major security concerns in a vulnerable area such as the Caribbean. CARICOM had therefore sought to implement regional drug control enforcement programmes by setting up, in December 1996, an intergovernmental task force on drugs. In April 1999, a joint meeting had been held of the task force and Ministers responsible for national security to review the region's drug programmes. The meeting had highlighted regional cooperation on supply reduction. It had also looked at new programmes, under the Barbados Plan, on women and drugs, legal and institutional reform of the penitentiary system, regional drug control communications and advocacy, and national drug control councils and strategies.

77. She highlighted cooperation between CARICOM and the United States of America in combating drugs under a plan of action on justice and security matters signed in Barbados in 1997. The joint committee set up under the arrangement had met in September 1999 in Washington and had called for demand and supply reduction strategies to be formalized. Nevertheless, it had recognized that significant progress had been made in cooperation in law enforcement, combating money laundering, mutual legal assistance and extradition, justice protection, and strengthening criminal justice systems and security forces.

78. The CARICOM countries were committed to ensuring that they were not overrun by drug trafficking and its related social ills and would continue to combat it through a holistic, multifaceted approach to the socio-economic challenges creating both drug demand and drug supply. That approach required cooperation with and between Governments and regional and multilateral organizations.

79. **Mr. Onovo** (Nigeria) said that illicit drugs were a global menace that cut across all boundaries and affected developed and developing countries alike. Combating it therefore required concerted, global and non-partisan action. One constraint on combating the traffic in drugs was a lack of information, even though most countries were willing to work together. Countries with information should be enabled to share it; information on previously unknown trends in drug production, distribution and consumption practices was particularly useful, as was information about new ways to launder money.

80. Nigeria was helping to support and enhance the exchange of information through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Drug Fund, and its own National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, now 10 years old, had proved effective in combating the drug menace: it had established far-reaching drug demand and supply reduction strategies and also administrative and technical measures to curb the activities of drug criminals along their local and international routes.

81. In addition to sophisticated screening devices, strategies included publishing photographs and names of offenders as a deterrent, public awareness campaigns, drug abuse education, and guidance and counselling. UNDCP had been an active ally in formulating and implementing the Nigerian National Drug Control Master Plan and had helped sponsor a rapid situation assessment project on which to base appropriate drug control strategies. Further assistance would be welcome, and he commended the European Union and the United States of America for their interest.

82. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency had succeeded in its 10 years of existence in seizing hundreds of tons of drugs and convicting almost 5,000 suspects. The success rate was high enough to keep the traffickers off balance and make them avoid Nigeria's ports. Nigeria, recognizing the global nature of the drug problem, had signed memoranda of understanding with other countries, particularly consumer nations, on exchanging information and other necessary measures. The Drug Law Enforcement Agency had uncovered various bizarre ways of concealing drugs, detected complex trafficking routes, and also developed countermeasures. All that information could be shared with countries that might be affected.

83. Transnational organized crime was another serious threat to the international community, endangering the economies and the security of States with money laundering, financial fraud, trafficking in small arms, bribery, smuggling of migrants and so on. General Assembly resolution 53/111 on the elaboration of a convention against transnational organized crime was a step in the right direction. Judging by the large number of States attending the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee established for that purpose, there was broad support for such a convention.

84. As a sign of its commitment to the international community in the field of crime prevention and fraud eradication, in March 1999 Nigeria had hosted a second West African meeting on fraud. Also, the current, democratic Government planned to host, in the not-too-distant future, an international conference against corruption and fraud. The Government had also enacted effective legislation against money laundering and an anti-corruption Bill had been submitted to the National Assembly. It was hoped that the Bill would become an Act that would set up a robust institutional framework against corruption and act as a catalyst in establishing a conducive climate for investment in Nigeria.

85. Trafficking in human beings, another transnational crime, had become a concern in Nigeria, and the Government was exploring ways to eliminate illegal migration, particularly of women and children. Indeed, Nigerian law enforcement officers had broken up many of the crime syndicates involved. Strengthening Africa's crime prevention and criminal justice systems would require a great deal of resources; however, the financial situation of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) remained bleak and was affecting the services that it could deliver to members. He called on all UNAFRI members, indeed any non-members, that wished to help the Institute and, by extension, Africa, to make the necessary contributions. Lastly, a global effort was needed to enhance the capacity of all United Nations bodies and affiliates to combat drugs and crime and free Member countries of their adverse effects.

86. **Mr. Al-Humaimidi** (Iraq) said that his country had expressed its willingness to cooperate with the international agencies responsible for drug control and had become a party to the relevant international conventions, incorporating their provisions into its national legislation. The strenuous efforts that it had made to control drugs meant that Iraq was currently one of the few countries in the world where drugs were neither produced nor trafficked. However, in the northern region, which was not currently subject to central government authority, there had been some infractions of the law: cocaine was produced in some areas and the situation prevailing in the north was conducive to drug smuggling.

87. The comprehensive economic sanctions imposed on Iraq for more than nine years had seriously damaged the country's drug control programme. Being deprived of its financial resources, Iraq was unable to participate in international or regional conferences or to keep abreast of new developments in the field. It was also unable to acquire sophisticated technical equipment, employ the services of international technical experts, or profit from training programmes outside the country. Nevertheless, Iraq would continue to cooperate with the international community with a view to achieving the laudable goal of completely suppressing the abuse of and illicit trafficking in drugs.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.